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[54] HOUSING FOR JOINT FORMING DEVICES

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[52] U.S. Cl. **403/231; 403/409.1; 403/405.1**

[58] Field of Search 403/231, 230,
403/245, 405.1, 409.1, 407.1, 406.1, 351,
367, DIG. 8, 297

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Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Emch, Schaffer, Schaub & Porcello Co., L.P.A.

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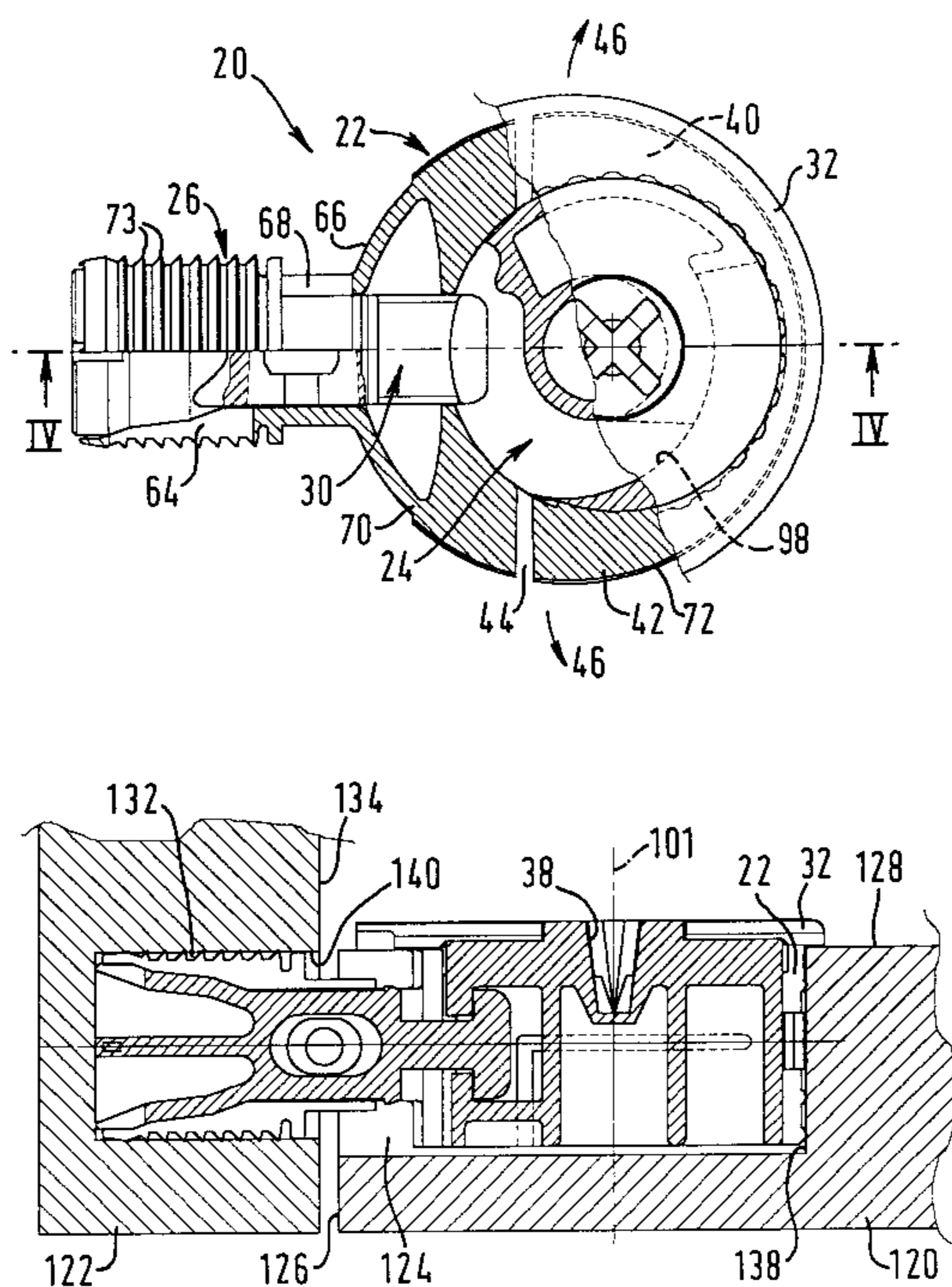
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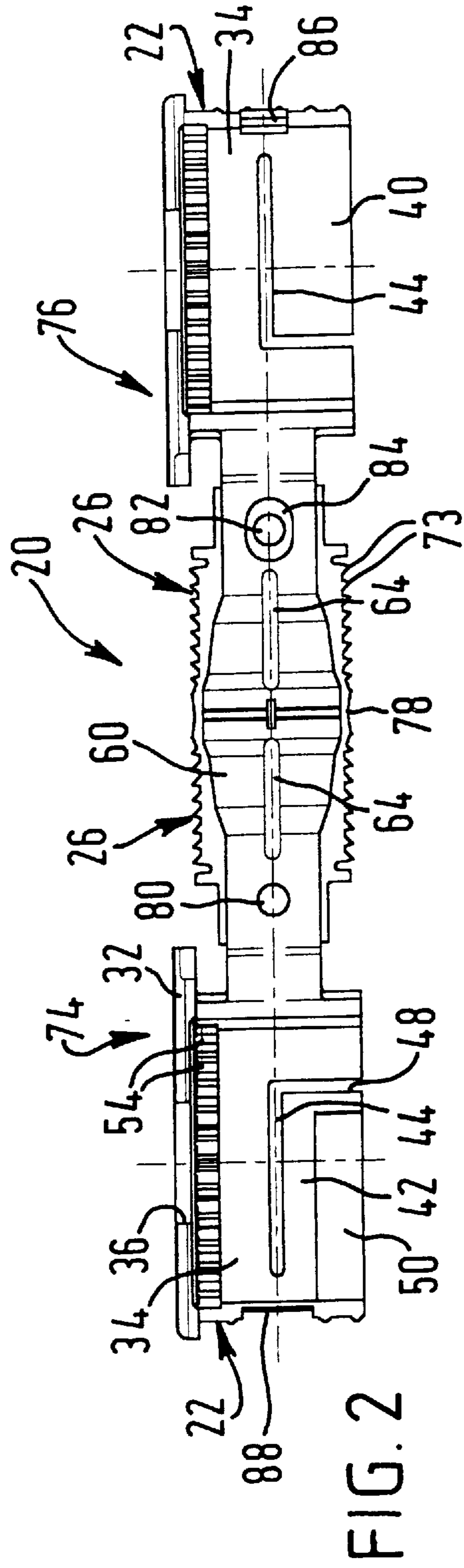
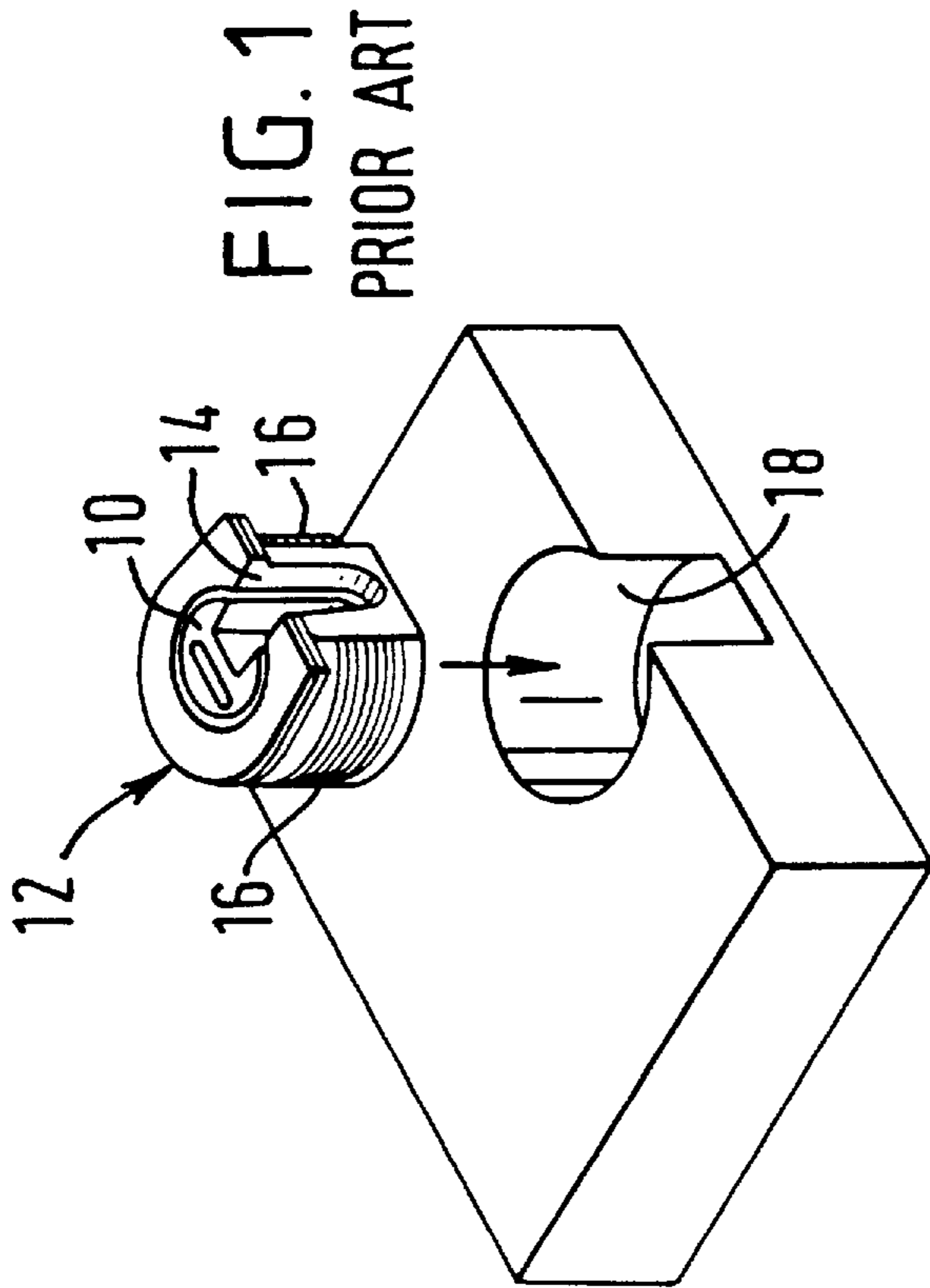
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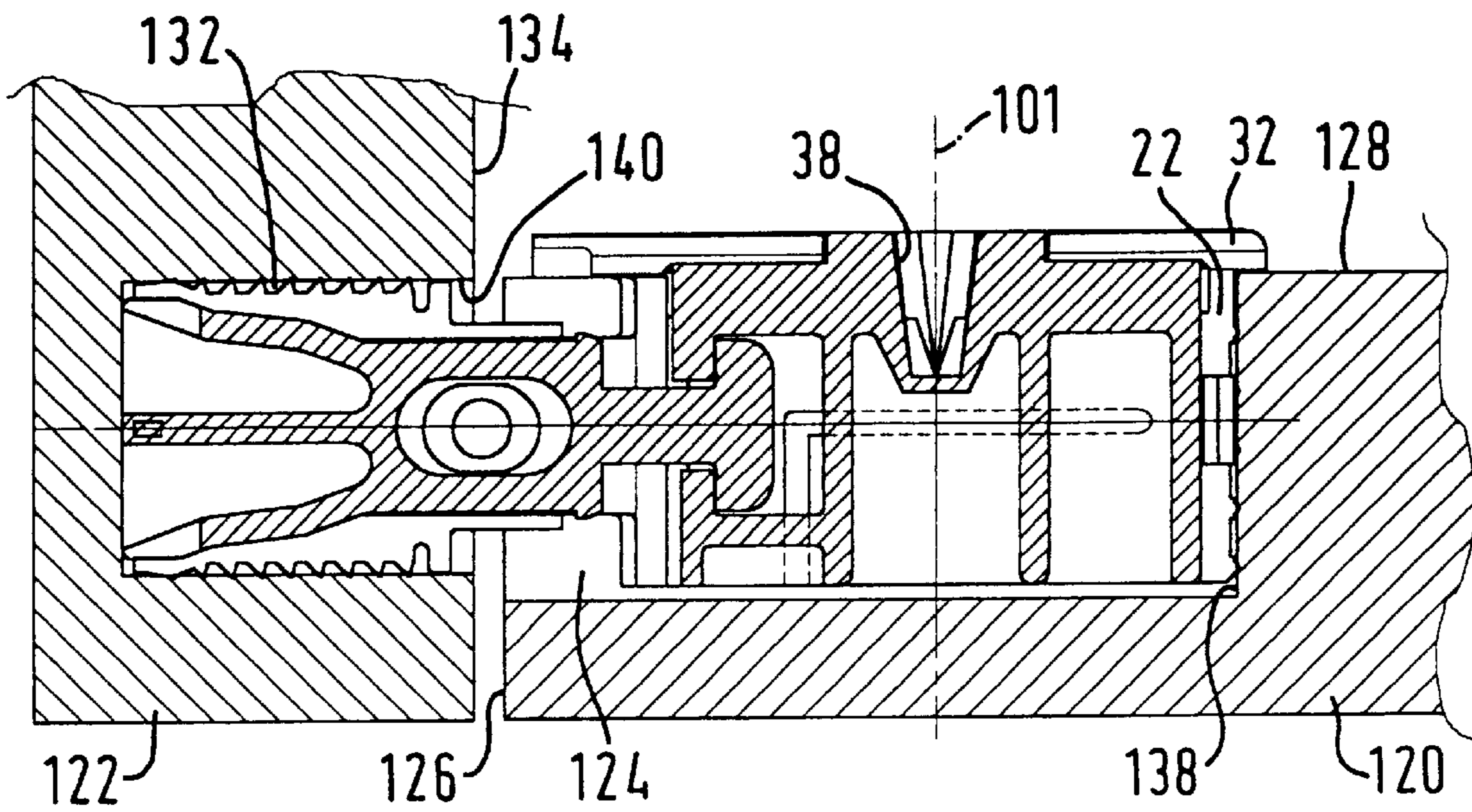
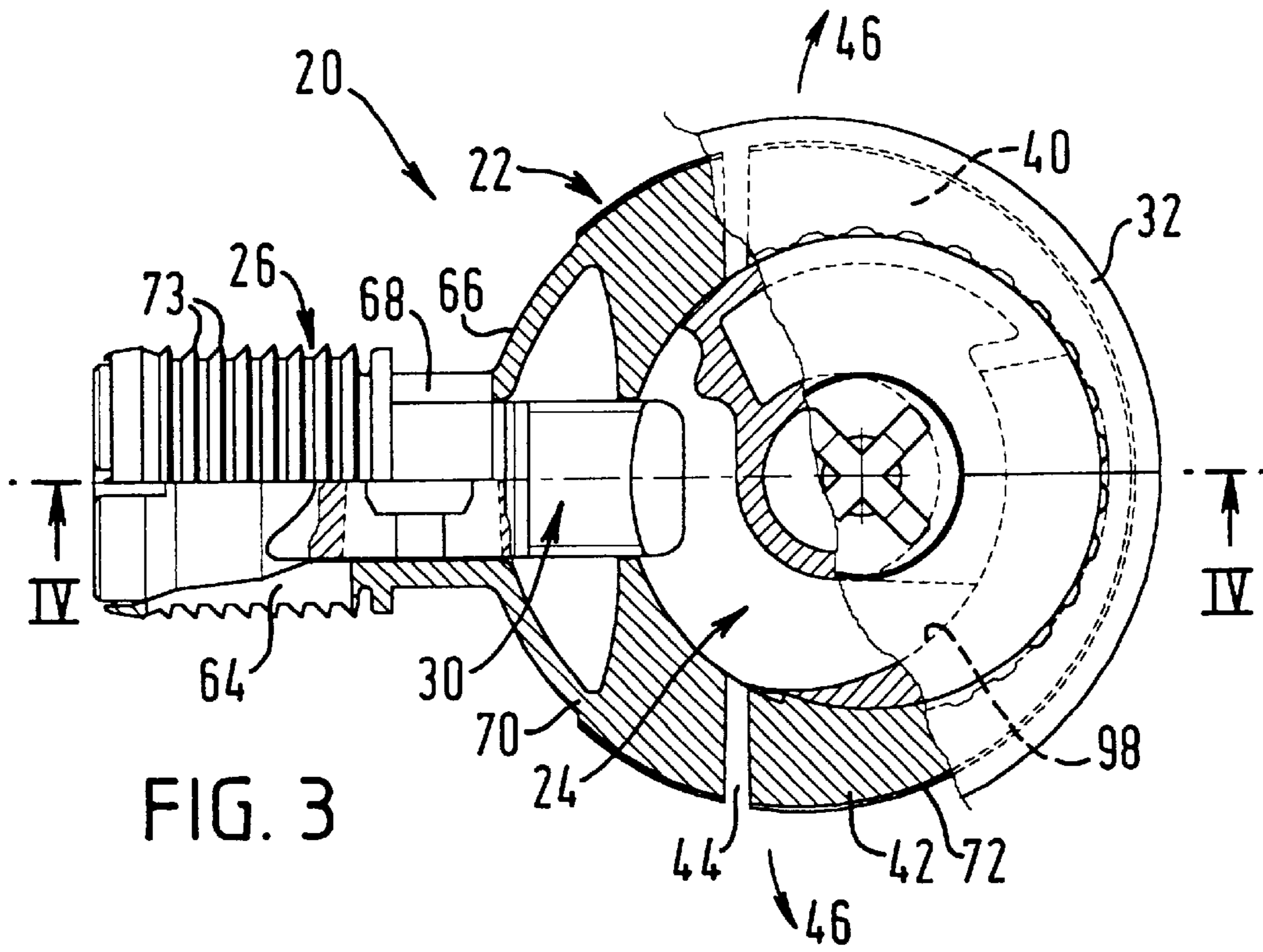
[57] ABSTRACT

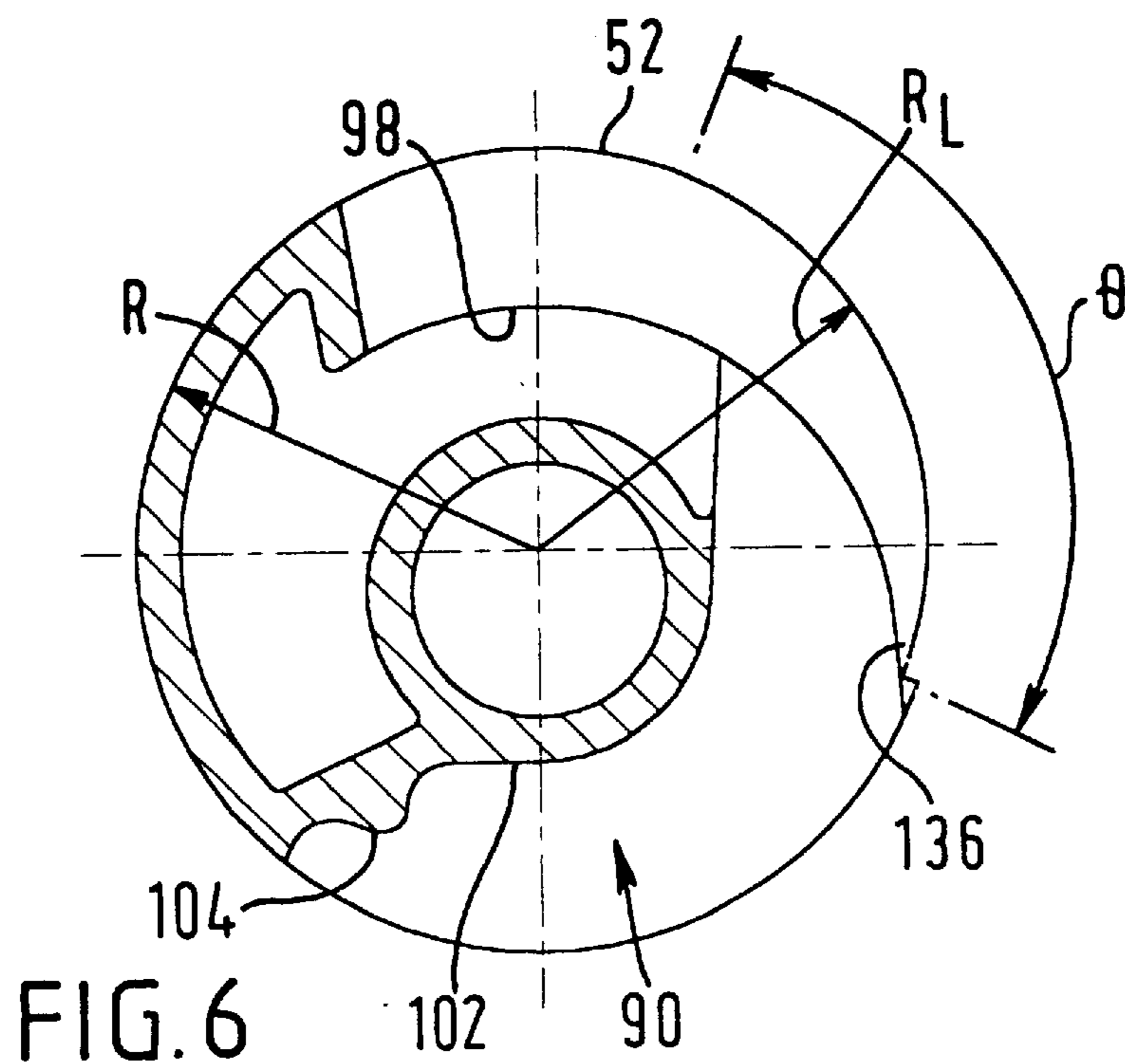
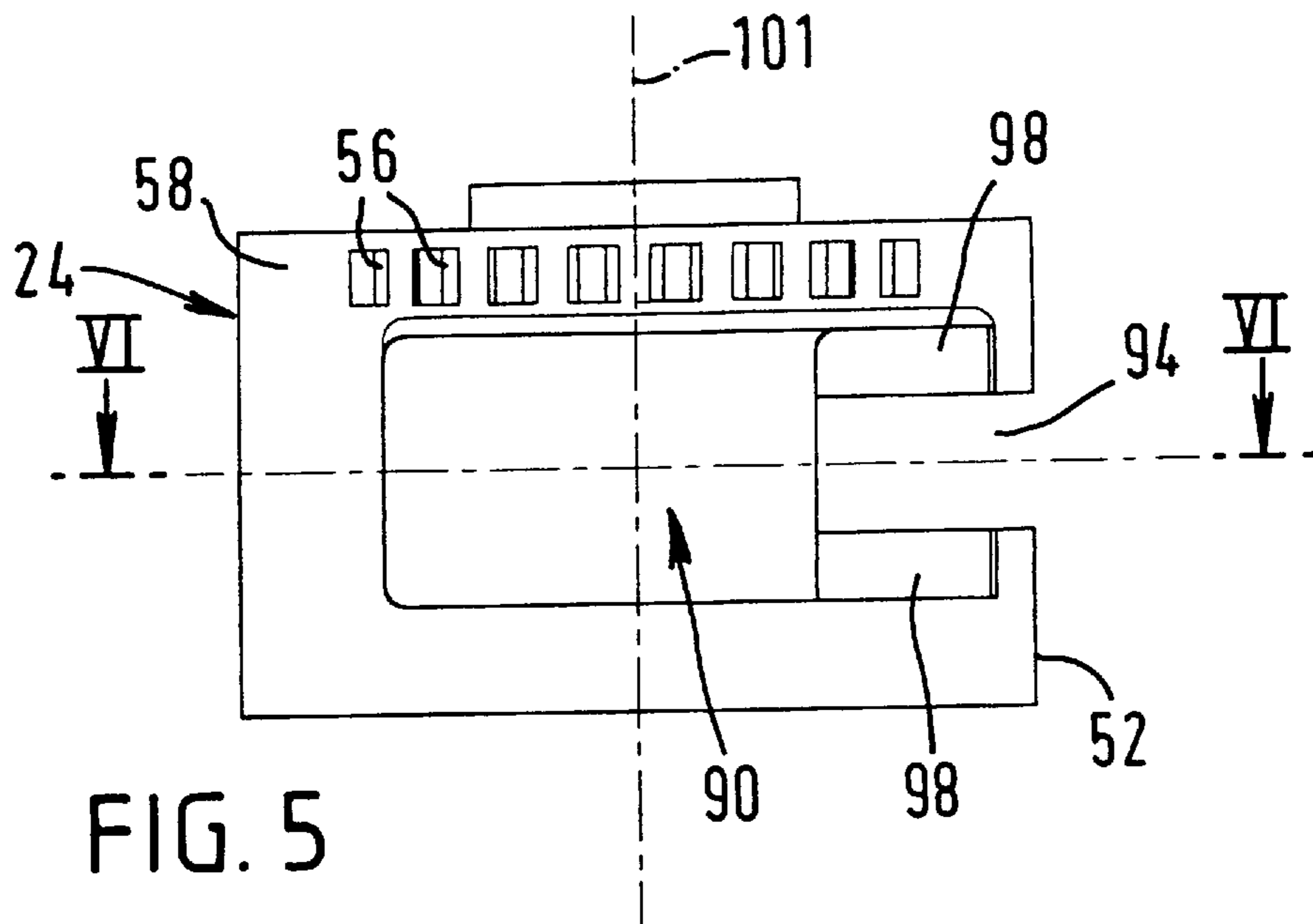
A housing for a joint forming device for forming a joint between two members comprises a sleeve (22) for housing a camming element (24) of such a joint forming device. The sleeve (22) has at least one moveable portion (40,42) adapted to move outwardly of the outer periphery of the sleeve as indicated by the arrows (46) in response to movement of such a camming element housed therein during tightening of the joint for forceably engaging a wall of a recess in one of the members in which the sleeve is fitted.

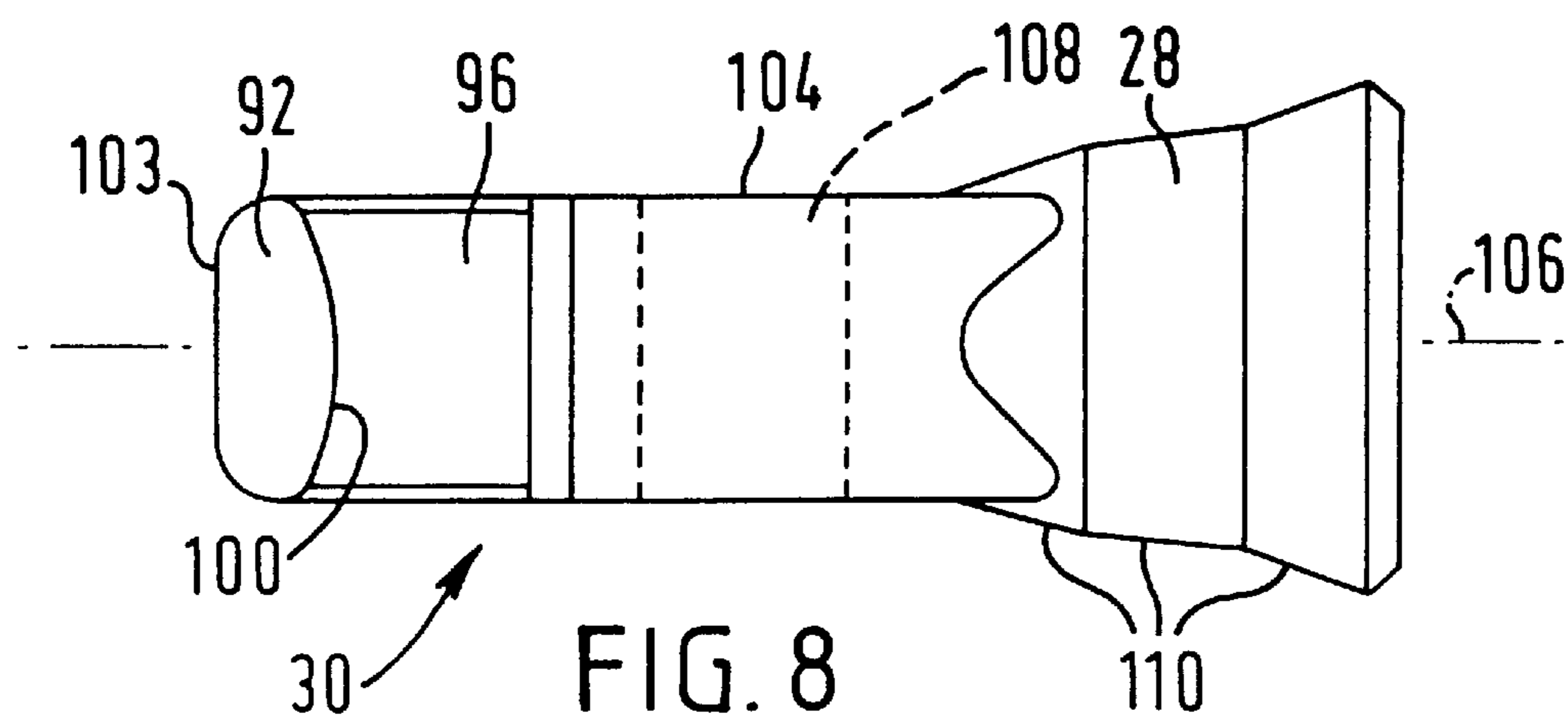
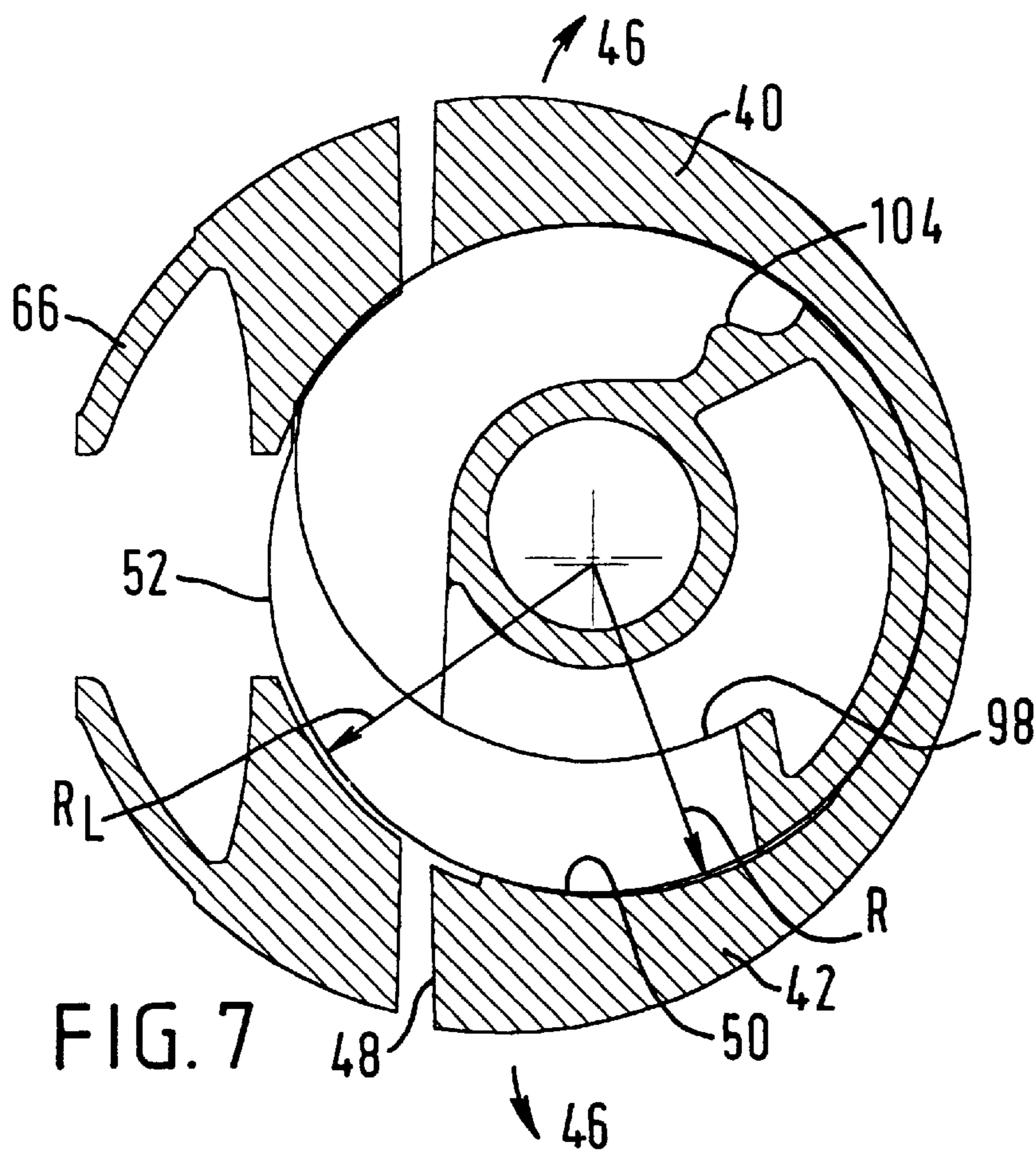
22 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets

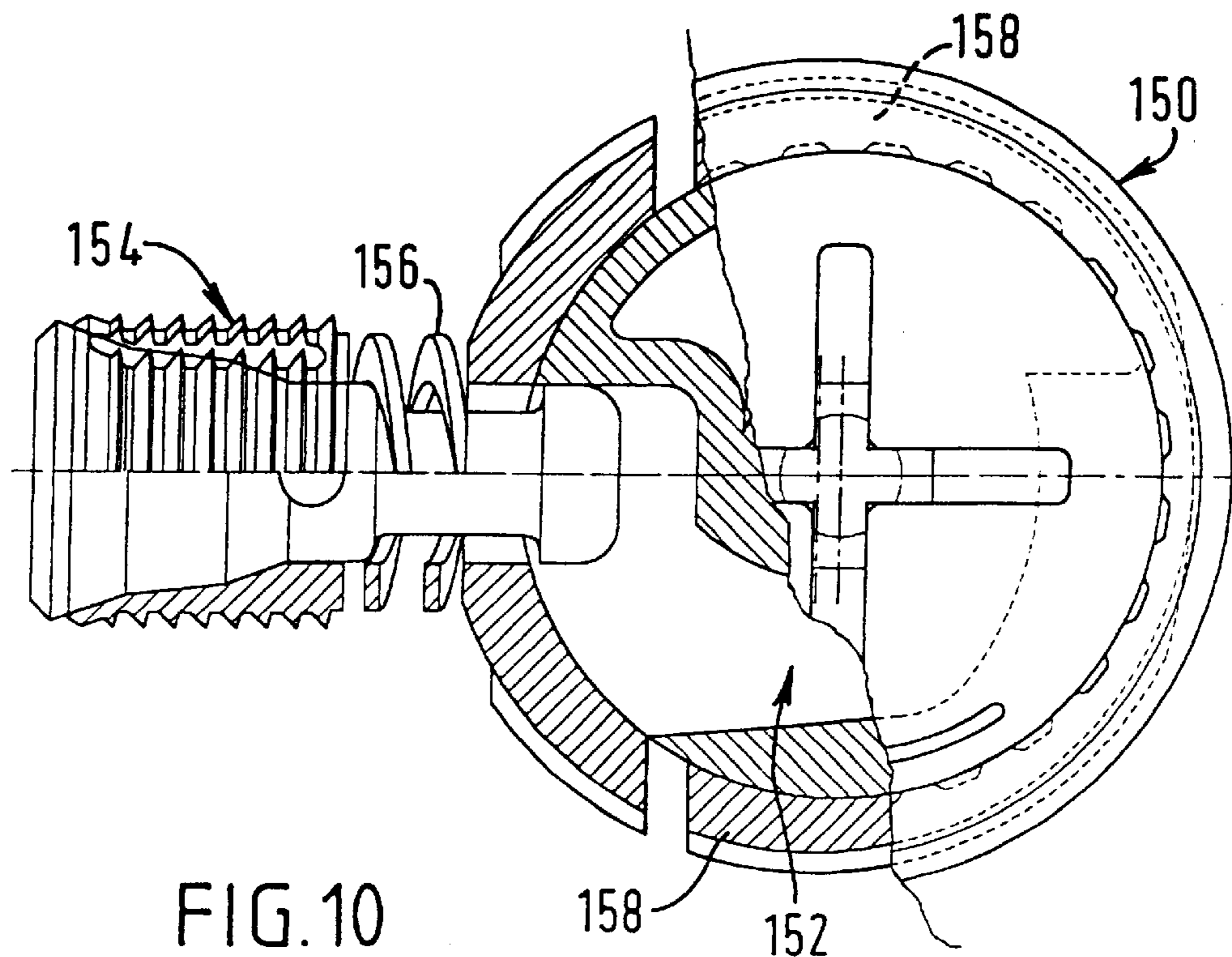
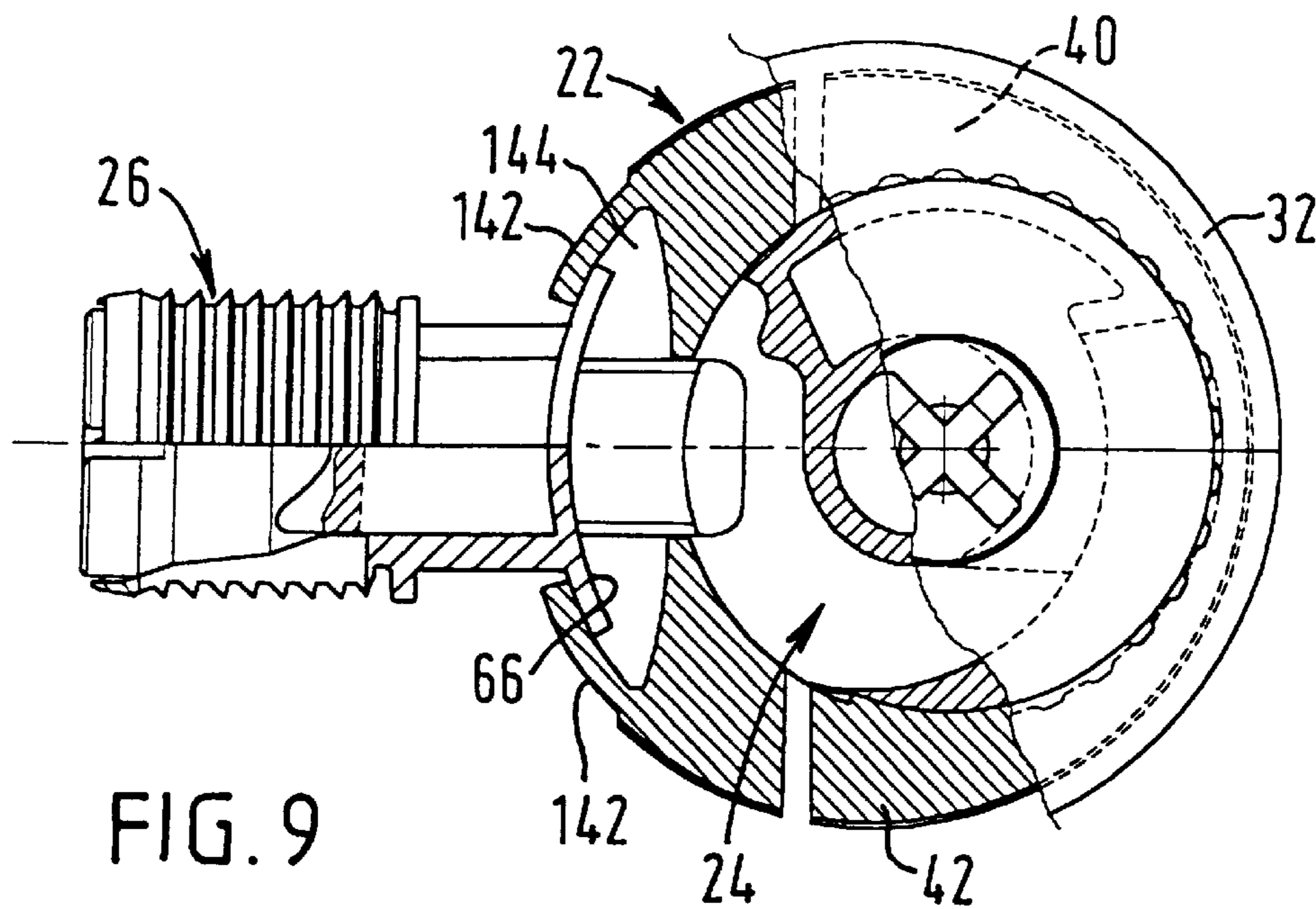


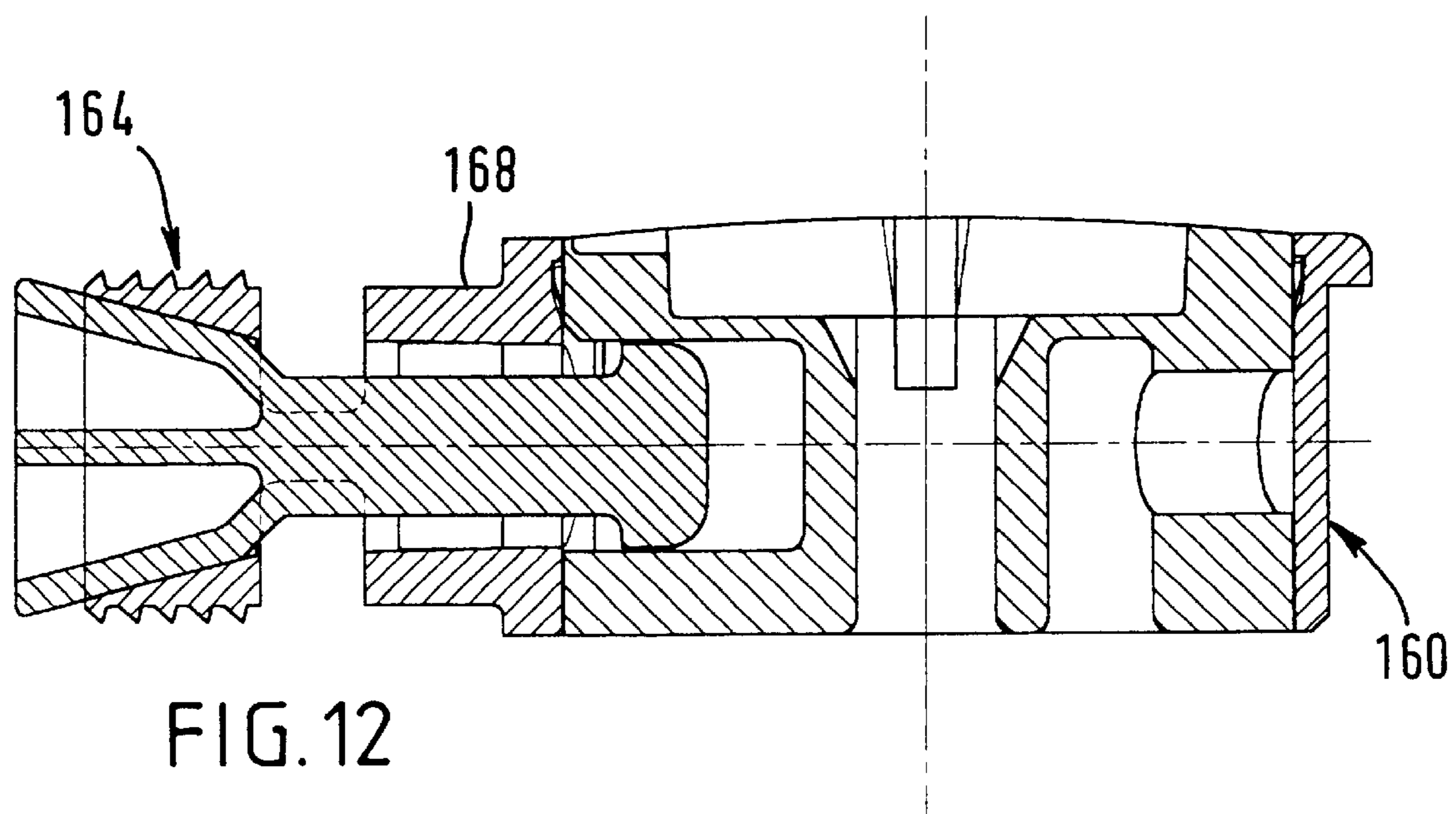
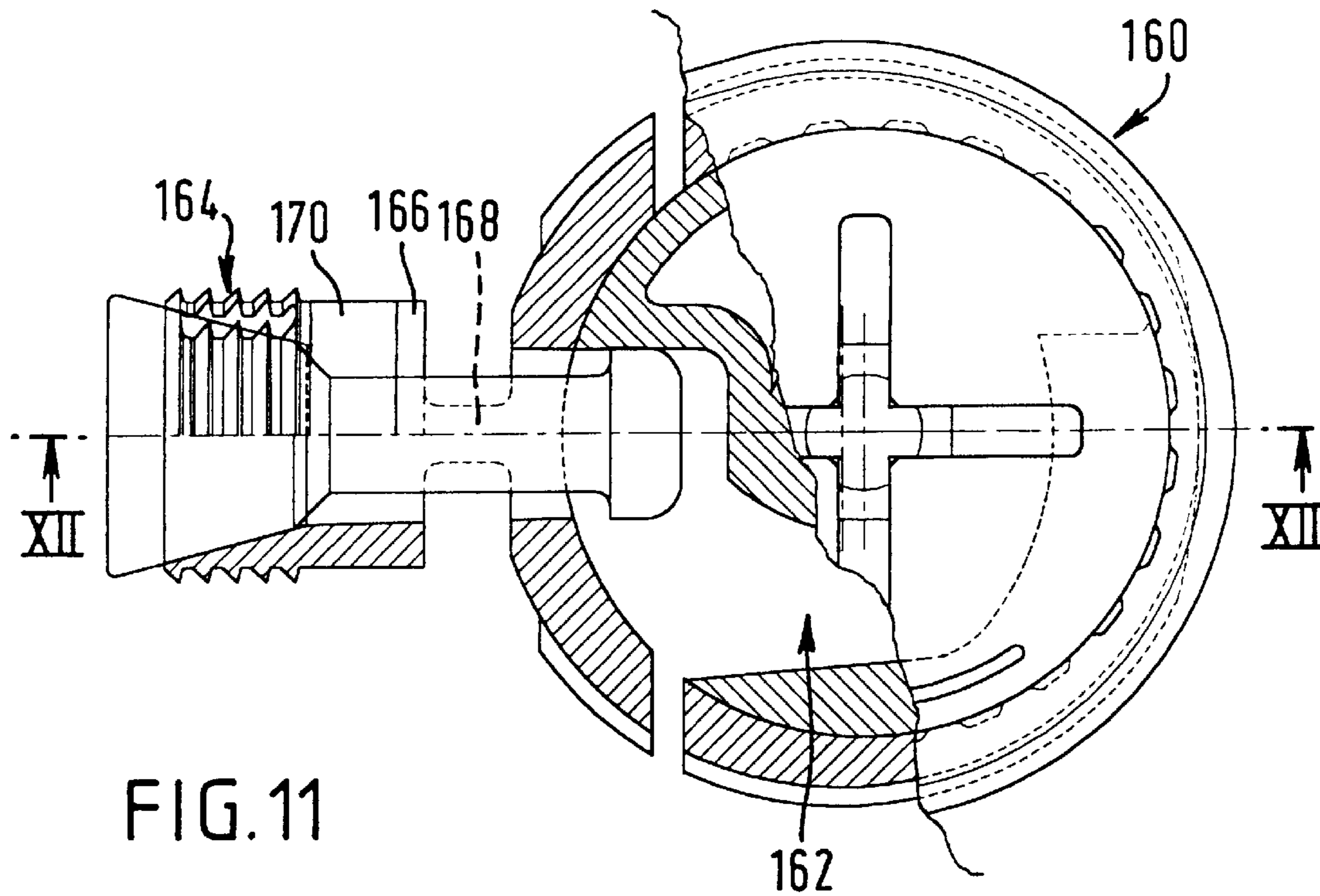












HOUSING FOR JOINT FORMING DEVICES

The invention relates to joint forming devices and more particularly to a housing for such joint forming devices.

A known joint forming device for forming a joint between two members comprises a fastening element in the form of an elongate pin which is insertable in a surface of one of the joint members with a head portion protruding from the member and a tightening element in the form of a rotatable camming element which is positioned in a recess in the other joint member and arranged to receive the head portion of the pin. A joint can be formed between the two members by rotation of the camming element which grips the head portion and pulls the pin inwardly thereof thus drawing the two joint members together. Such a joint forming device is disclosed in GB 2241299B, GB 2246826B and GB 2277973A and GB 2285106A.

Typically the recess for the camming element is formed in a major surface of one of the joint members and access for the pin is provided by a bore which extends from an edge of the member and opens into the recess. In order to reduce the number of machining operations on the joint member which receives the camming element, it is known to form the recess therefor at an edge of the joint member as shown in FIG. 1. In this case, the camming member **10** is housed in a sleeve **12** which has a slot **14** to allow the head portion of the pin to be inserted into the camming element. The recess is formed such that the sleeve is a force fit therein and the sleeve is provided with formations **16** for gripping a wall **18** of the recess.

The known sleeve which is typically made of a plastics material has two disadvantages. Firstly, the person assembling the joint is required to force fit the sleeve into the recess, typically by means of a mallet, and secondly if for any reason the sleeve is incorrectly fitted in the recess, it is often impossible to remove it without damaging the joint member and/or the sleeve. In the field of knock-down furniture in which such joint forming devices are widely used, it is desirable to provide a device which can be fitted to the joint members without the use of tools and which can be readily removed therefrom without damage to either the joint member or components of the joint forming device.

It is an object of the invention to at least partially overcome the above-described problems.

Accordingly, the invention provides a housing for a joint forming device for forming a joint between two members, the housing comprising a sleeve for housing a camming element of such a joint forming device and having at least one moveable portion adapted to move outwardly of the outer periphery of the sleeve, in use, in response to movement of such a camming element housed in the sleeve during tightening of said joint for forceably engaging a wall of a recess in one of said members in which the sleeve is fitted.

The or each said moveable portion may be resiliently deflectable in response to said movement of the camming element.

The or each moveable portion may be an integral part of said sleeve separated partly from the remainder thereof by one or more slots provided in said sleeve.

The or each said moveable portion may be separated partly from the remainder of the sleeve by a generally L-shaped slot.

The or at least one said moveable portion may comprise cam means, said cam means being cooperable with such a tightening element housed in the sleeve for at least in part causing said outward movement of the or each said moveable portion.

The housing means may comprise formations cooperable with formations of such a camming element for facilitating locking of the joint forming device.

The formations of the housing may comprise a plurality of substantially equi-spaced depressions disposed in a surface of said sleeve which surface defines a recess for housing such a camming element.

The housing may further comprise a bush for housing at least an expansion portion of an elongate fastening element of such a joint forming device such that said fastening element is engageable with such a camming element housed in said sleeve, said bush being integral with, or releasably engageable with, said sleeve.

The invention also includes a device for use in forming a joint between two members, the device comprising a housing to be fitted in a recess in one of said members, a tightening element to be housed by said housing and an elongate fastening element having a longitudinal axis to be fitted to the other of said members, said tightening element having at least one arcuate camming surface cooperably engageable with a respective engaging surface of said fastening element whereby movement of said tightening element causes axial movement of said fastening element to cause a joint formed between said two members with said device to tighten, said housing comprising a sleeve for housing said tightening element, said housing having at least one moveable portion adapted to move outwardly of the outer periphery of the sleeve, in use, in response to tightening of said joint by said movement of the tightening element housed therein for forceably engaging with a wall of said recess in which the sleeve is fitted.

The or at least one said moveable portion may comprise cam means, said cam means being cooperable with said tightening element housed in said sleeve for at least in part causing said outward movement of the or each said moveable portion.

The housing may be provided with formations cooperably engageable with formations of the tightening element for facilitating locking of the joint forming device.

The formations of the housing may comprise circumferentially spaced depressions disposed in a surface of said sleeve which defines a recess for housing the tightening element and said formations of the tightening element comprise a plurality of protrusions on an external surface of the tightening element.

The tightening element may comprise cam means for actuating the or each said moveable portion.

The housing may further comprise a bush for housing at least an expansion portion of said elongate fastening element, such that the or each said camming surface is engageable with the respective engaging surface of the fastening element by said rotation of the tightening element, said bush being integral with, or releasably engageable with, said sleeve.

The bush may be connected, or connectable, with said sleeve by resilient means.

The resilient means may comprise a plurality of flexible membranes.

The bush may be releasably engageable with said sleeve, said bush having flexible membrane means extending from an end region thereof and said sleeve defining a recess for receiving said flexible membrane means.

The bush may be integral with said sleeve, said sleeve and bush comprising a first body part and a second body part, said body parts being snap-fittable together.

In order that the invention may be well understood, some embodiments thereof, which are given by way of example

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only, will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a known housing for a camming element in use;

FIG. 2 is a side view of a housing according to the invention in an open condition prior to insertion of a fastening element and a tightening element to be housed therein;

FIG. 3 is a partially sectioned plan view of the housing of FIG. 2 in a closed condition housing a fastening element and a tightening element;

FIG. 4 is a section on line IV—IV in FIG. 3 showing the housing fitted to two members of a joint;

FIG. 5 is a side view of the tightening element;

FIG. 6 is a section on line VI—VI in FIG. 5;

FIG. 7 is an enlarged view of the sleeve and tightening element in FIG. 3 with the tightening element rotated approximately 90° clockwise from the position shown in FIG. 3;

FIG. 8 is a side view of a fastening element;

FIG. 9 is a partially sectioned top plan view of a joint forming device in which sleeve and bush are releasably connected;

FIG. 10 is a partially sectioned top plan view of another joint forming device;

FIG. 11 is a partially sectioned top plan view of yet another joint forming device; and

FIG. 12 is a section on line XII—XII in FIG. 11.

Referring to FIGS. 2 to 8, a housing 20 for a joint forming device for forming a joint between two members comprises a sleeve 22 for housing a tightening, or camming, element 24 of such a joint forming device and a bush 26 for housing at least an expansion portion 28 of an elongate fastening element 30 of such a device. In combination, the housing 20, tightening element 24 and fastening element 30 constitute a joint forming device for forming a joint between two members, such as two panels of an item of knock-down furniture.

In FIG. 2, the housing 20 is shown in an open condition in which form it can be manufactured as a one-piece split plastics moulding as will be described in more detail below. The housing is shown in a closed, use condition, in FIG. 3.

The sleeve is provided with a generally planar cap 32 which cooperates with an interior surface 34 of the sleeve to define a recess having a generally circular cross-section in which the tightening element is housed. The cap 32 is provided with a through-hole 36 through which a screw-driver slot 38 of the tightening element can be accessed.

The housing comprises two oppositely disposed moveable portions 40, 42. The moveable portions 40, 42 are adapted to move generally radially outwardly of the outer periphery of the sleeve 22 in the direction of the arrows 46 (see FIG. 3) in response to movement in a joint tightening direction by the tightening element 24 housed in the sleeve. This movement, at least in part, provides a radially outward expansion of the sleeve for gripping a wall of a recess in which the sleeve is fitted in use.

Each moveable portion 40, 42 is an integral part of the sleeve 22 and is separated partly from the remainder thereof by a generally L-shaped slot 44, as best seen in FIG. 2.

The slots 44 extend between the outer periphery of the sleeve and the interior surface 34 of the sleeve. Each of the moveable portions has a free end 48 defined by the respective slots 44.

The moveable portion 42 is provided with cam means comprising a rib 50 which is disposed internally of the sleeve for cooperating with cam means 52 of the tightening

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element to cause the generally radially outward movement of the moveable portions 40, 42. The rib 50 extends lengthwise of the moveable portion 42 and has a height above the interior surface 34 which increases progressively to a maximum at the end of the rib which is adjacent the free end 48 of the moveable portion 42.

The housing 20 further comprises formations, shown as depressions 54, cooperable with formations, shown as protrusions 56, of the tightening element 24 for facilitating locking of the joint forming device. With regard to FIG. 3, the depressions 54 and protrusions 56 have not been illustrated by means of dashed lines as is conventional when depicting hidden detail in order to improve the clarity of the drawing.

The depressions are substantially equi-spaced and are disposed along the length of the interior surface 34 of the sleeve. As best seen in FIG. 5, the protrusions 56 are provided on a peripheral surface 58 of the tightening element. The protrusions are disposed in two groups spaced 180° apart, one such group being shown in FIG. 5. In use, when the tightening element housed in the sleeve is rotated, the cooperable engagement of the protrusions and depressions provides a ratchet-like effect and defines a plurality of locked positions of the joint forming device.

The bush 26 is a generally cylindrical element having a through-passage 60 which has an end portion remote from the sleeve 22 which is shaped to correspond to the expansion portion 28 of the fastening element 30. The bush comprises opposed lengthwise extending slots 64 which facilitate a generally radially outward expansion of the bush, in use, for providing forceable engagement with a wall of a recess in which the bush is fitted.

The sleeve 22 and bush 26 are connected by resilient means in the form of opposed flexible membranes 66. The membranes 66 are arcuate in the lengthwise direction thereof and extend from opposite sides of a generally rectangular leading end portion 68 of the bush to opposite corner regions 70 of the sleeve 22.

The sleeve and bush are each provided with external formations for gripping the wall of their respective recesses 124, 132 when the sleeve/bush is expanded into forceable engagement therewith. The formations of the sleeve comprise elongate ribs 72 which extend at least partially circumferentially thereof. It will be appreciated that the ribs 72 will not be continuous in the region of the catch element 86. The formations of the bush comprise barbs 73 which extend between the slots 64.

The sleeve 22, bush 26 and flexible membranes 66 are integral and as indicated above can be manufactured as a one-piece split plastics moulding. In more detail, the moulding comprises a first body part 74 and a second body part 76 each of which defines one half of the housing. More specifically, the body parts 74, 76 each define one half of the bush and sleeve and one flexible membrane extending therebetween. The respective ends of the body parts 74, 76 which define the bush halves are connected by hinge portions 78. The body parts can be folded together about the hinge portions 78 to a closed, use condition best seen in FIG. 3. The body parts are adapted to be snap-fittable together and are shown with the first body part 74 provided with a protrusion 80 which is snap-fittingly engageable in a bore 82 provided in a spigot 84 formed on the second body part 76. At the end of the sleeve 22 remote from the bush, the second body part 76 is provided with a catch element 86 which extends in a generally circumferential direction of the sleeve for snap-fitting engagement with a recess indicated at 88, in the first body part 74.

As described above, the slots **44** which define the moveable portions **40**, **42** extend between the outer periphery of the sleeve and the interior surface **34**. In order to improve the efficiency of the plastics moulding process, and in particular to reduce wear of the tooling, it is envisaged that a thin membrane of the plastics material may be left adjacent the surface **34** so that the slots **44** would not extend to the interior of the sleeve portion. It is envisaged that this membrane would be in the region of 1 mm in thickness and it will be appreciated that such a membrane would not prevent outward movement of the moveable portions **40**, **42**.

The tightening element **24** comprises a generally drum-like element having an opening **90** through which a head portion **92** of the fastening element **30** can be inserted into a hollow interior of the tightening element. A slot **94** extends from the opening **90** partially circumferentially of the tightening element and is adapted to receive a neck portion **96** of the fastening element as shown in FIG. 4.

The tightening element further comprises two arcuate camming surfaces **98** adapted to engage respective discrete engaging surfaces **100** of the fastening element whereby rotation of the tightening element in a clockwise (as viewed in FIG. 3) sense causes axial movement of the fastening element towards the axis of rotation **101** of the tightening element.

In addition to the two arcuate camming surfaces **98**, the tightening element comprises an internal cam means **102** for causing axial movement of the fastening element in a direction away from the axis of rotation **101** by rotation of the tightening element in an anticlockwise sense for facilitating release of the fastening element from a tightened condition. The internal cam means comprises a surface **102** defining a ridge **104** which extends generally parallel to the axis of rotation **101** for engaging a leading end **103** of the fastening element.

The peripheral surface **58** of the tightening element at the lower (as viewed in FIG. 4) end of the tightening element is profiled to define the cam means **52**. As best seen in FIG. 5, the tightening element has a generally circular profile defined by a radius R . The cam means **52** includes a section of the lower end outer periphery having an angular extent θ of approximately 90° which has a varying radial extent R_L which is less than R . The reduction in the radial extent R_L of the cam means **52** increases progressively in the clockwise direction of the section defined by the angle θ . Thus, the cam means **52** comprises portions having a radius R and a relieved section θ having a radius R_L which is progressively less than radius R over the angular extent thereof. The profile of the relieved section θ is adapted to complement the profile of the rib **50** so as to provide a substantially continuous contact between the moveable portion **42** and the relieved section θ of the cam means **52**.

With reference to FIG. 8, the fastening element **30** is an elongate pin member comprising a leading end portion **104** which has a generally rectangular, and preferably square, transverse cross-section and the expansion portion **28**. The leading end portion **104** comprises the head portion **92** and neck portion **96**. The neck portion is defined by opposed slots extending transversely of the longitudinal axis **106** of the fastening element. The engaging surfaces **100** of the fastening element are each defined by a wall of a respective one of the slots which define the neck portion **96** and have a length extending transversely of the longitudinal axis **106**.

The fastening element is provided with a through-aperture **108** in which the protrusion **80** and spigot **84** are received when the two body parts **74**, **76** are snap-fitted together.

The expansion portion **28** has a generally circular transverse cross-section and comprises a plurality of taper portions **110**. The function of the expansion portion **28** and its interaction with the bush **26** will be described in more detail below.

Although not essential, it is envisaged that the joint forming device comprising the housing **20**, tightening element **24** and fastening element **30** will be supplied ready assembled as shown in FIG. 3. The device is assembled by first taking the housing **20** in its open condition, as shown in FIG. 2, and inserting a tightening element **24** into the recess defined by the interior surface **34** in one of the halves of the sleeve **22**. To allow insertion of a fastening element **30**, the opening **90** of the tightening element is positioned so as to face the through-passage **60** of the bush **26**. The fastening element is fitted to the housing by inserting the expansion portion **28** into the corresponding half of the bush with the protrusion **80** or spigot **84** extending into the through-aperture **108** of the fastening element depending on which of the two body parts **74**, **76** the fastening and tightening elements are inserted into. In this condition, the head portion **92** of the fastening element is positioned internally of the tightening element such that rotation of the tightening element in the clockwise sense will bring the camming surfaces **98** into engagement with the respective engaging surfaces **100** of the fastening element. Assembly of the device is completed by bringing the two body parts together so that the protrusion **80** and bore **82** and the catch element **86** and recess **88** snap-fittingly engage. In this assembled condition, a unitary joint forming device is provided which is ready for fitting to two members for forming a joint therebetween.

With reference to FIG. 4, in order to form a joint between two members **120**, **122**, the sleeve **22** is fitted into a recess **124** in the joint member **120** with the bush **26** extending beyond an edge **126** of the member **120**. The recess **124** is formed in a major surface **128** of the member **120** and may be positioned so as to open at the edge **126** in order to allow the second housing to extend beyond the edge **126**. Alternatively, a further recess may be provided extending between the recess **124** and edge **126**. The recess **124** should be sized to allow the sleeve to be inserted therein simply by pressing lightly on the cap **32**. The cap **32** serves as a depth stop for the sleeve and to cover any chips made in the surface **128** of the member **120** by the forming of the recesses **124**.

With the sleeve **22** thus installed in the recess **124**, assembly of the joint is completed by moving the joint member **122** towards the edge **126** such that the bush **26** enters a recess **132** in a major surface **134** of the member **122**. Assembly is complete when the major surface **134** of the member **122** abuts the edge **126**. The recess **132** is preferably sized to provide a close clearance fit with the bush so that substantially no force is required in order to bring the two joint members together with the major surface **134** abutting the edge **126**. A gap is shown between the two members to illustrate the advantage of having a flexible connection between the bush and the sleeve as described in more detail below.

The joint thus assembled is tightened by rotating the tightening element **24** in a clockwise sense by means of a screwdriver inserted in the screwdriver slot **38**. The first 90° of rotation of the tightening element moves the opening **90** out of alignment with the through-passage **60** and brings the respective leading ends **136** of the camming surfaces into a position in which they engage the respective engaging surfaces **100** which position is shown in FIG. 7. During that first 90° or so of rotation, the relieved section θ of the cam means **52** moves approximately into line with the through-

passage **60** so that a portion of the cam means **52** having a radius **R** is brought into contact with the rib **50**. It will be appreciated that as the tightening element is rotated, the moveable portion **42** is progressively deflected radially outwardly in the direction of the arrows **46** as contact with the relieved section θ is replaced by contact with the full radius **R** portions of the cam means **52**. Although the radius of the cam means **52** acting upon the moveable portion **40** does not increase with rotation of the tightening element, the arrangement is such that provided the recess **124** is sized correctly, the moveable portion **42** can only move outwardly to a certain extent before contacting a wall **138** of the recess **124** and thus further expansion of the first housing is generated through outward movement of the moveable portion **40**. In more detail, the initial effect of the rotation of the tightening element is that the moveable portion **42** is moved outwardly by the interaction of the rib **50** and cam means **52** until it is forceably engaged with the wall **138** and is thus prevented from moving further. The continued interaction of the cam means **52** and rib **50** as the tightening element is rotated then generates a force which causes the tightening element to move in the sleeve portion in the direction of the moveable portion **40** which is thus caused to move outwardly of the outer periphery of the sleeve portion to a position in which it forceably engages the wall **138**. Thus, the first 90° or so of rotation of the tightening element causes a generally radially outward expansion of the tightening element for forceably engaging the wall **138** of the recess **124** in which it is fitted.

As clockwise rotation of the tightening element **22** is continued beyond the position shown in FIG. 1, the camming surfaces **98** engaging the respective engaging surfaces **100** of the fastening element cause the fastening element to move axially towards the axis of rotation **101** of the tightening element. The initial effect of that movement is to pull the taper portions **110** into the corresponding taper portions of the through-passage **60** causing the bush **26** to expand radially outwardly to forceably engage a wall **140** of the recess **132**. Once the sleeve and bush have been expanded to forceably engage the walls of their respective recesses, further rotation of the tightening element applies a compressive force to the joint members **120**, **122** ensuring that the joint is tightly made.

Two additional effects can be obtained by continued clockwise rotation of the tightening element beyond the point at which the first and second housings are forceably engaged with their respective recesses. Firstly, the tightening element tends to move slightly in the first housing towards the edge **126** of the joint member. This movement causes further expansion of the first housing by forcing the two halves of the first housing apart. Thus the forceable engagement between the outer periphery of the sleeve portion and the wall **138** of the recess **124** is intensified. It will be appreciated that the rotation of the tightening element provides two camming actions: firstly, the interaction of the cam means **52** and rib **50** and secondly, linear movement of the tightening element towards the second housing.

The second additional effect is the closure of any gap between the two joint members. Provided the recesses **124**, **132** are sized correctly (i.e. within a predetermined tolerance) and the major surface **134** and edge **126** are flat, it should be possible to bring the two joint members together by hand as described above with no gap therebetween. In such a case, no pull-up of the joint in the tightening process is required. However, it is envisaged that these ideal conditions will not always be obtained and that a gap may initially be present as shown in FIG. 4. It will be understood

that the resilience of the flexible membranes **66** allows the joint forming device to provide a pull-up action when required. In more detail, if when the two housings have been expanded into forceable engagement with the walls of their respective recesses there is a gap between the two members, the pulling force generated by the arcuate camming surfaces **98** which draws the fastening element towards the axis of rotation **101** causes the flexible membranes **66** to flex inwardly in the general direction of the sleeve **22** such that the member **122** is pulled toward the member **120** via the bush **26** to close the gap. Once the gap is closed, continued rotation of the tightening element applies a compressive force to the joint members which ensures that the joint is tightly made.

The joint can readily be disassembled by reversing the above-described tightening process. As the tightening element is rotated in the anti-clockwise sense, the resiliently deflectable moveable portions move towards the outer periphery of the tightening element to return the sleeve to a non-expanded condition and the fastening element is pushed away from the axis of rotation by virtue of contact between the surface **102** and the leading end **103** of the fastening element. If the tightening element is rotated anti-clockwise beyond the position at which the opening **90** is aligned with the through-passage **60**, the leading end **103** of the fastening element is contacted by the ridge **104**. The ridge **104** is configured to provide a substantial movement of the fastening element away from the axis of rotation **101** thereby moving the expansion portion **28** out of expanding engagement with the tapered portion of the through-passage **60**. The movement of the fastening element provided by the ridge **104** ensures that the expansion portion **28** is moved to a position in which the bush can return to its non-expanded condition so that it can readily be removed from the recess **132**.

With the sleeve **22** and bush **26** returned to a non-expanded condition, the joint can be disassembled by removing the housings from their respective recesses **124**, **132**. It will be appreciated that since the sleeve and bush resiliently deform to assume an expanded condition, the joint forming device is re-usable.

With regard to the connecting means between the sleeve and the bush, it is to be understood that although preferred, it is not essential that these are resilient. The connection may be by rigid means. However, in the case of a rigid connection, the pull-up action described above will not occur and thus the joint forming device may in certain circumstances provide a joint which although tightly made, has a gap between the joint members.

It is also to be understood that it is not essential that the sleeve, bush and connecting means therebetween are integral. Instead, the sleeve and bush may be releasably connected by the connecting means as shown in FIG. 9.

In FIG. 9, the configuration of the sleeve and bush is generally the same as the joint forming device shown in FIG. 3 and accordingly the same reference numerals will be used to describe like parts. Optionally, as shown, the sleeve **22** and bush **26** may be formed as one piece components and not split as in the FIG. 3 embodiment. The sleeve **22** comprises moveable portions **40**, **42** and a planar cap **32**. The sleeve includes arcuate extension arms **142** which extend towards the bush **26**. The extension arms **142** and the cap **32** define a recess **144**.

The bush **26** comprises a flexible membrane **66** disposed at one end thereof. The membrane **66** includes an aperture through which the head portion **92** of the fastening element may protrude for engaging with the camming surfaces of the

tightening element **24** and has respective portions extending from opposite sides of the second housing.

In order to connect the sleeve and the bush, the flexible membrane **66** is inserted into the recess **144**. The configuration of the membrane **66** and extension arms **142** is such that there is interference therebetween to provide a force by which the connection between the sleeve and the bush is maintained. Thus the joint forming device of FIG. **9** can be supplied to the customer ready assembled as a unitary joint forming device.

The assembly of a joint with the FIG. **9** device and the tightening process corresponds to that described in connection with the device shown in FIGS. **2** to **8**.

Further embodiments of the joint forming device showing alternative means for connecting the first and second housing will now be described with reference to FIGS. **10** to **12**.

In FIG. **10**, a sleeve **150** housing a tightening element **152** is connected with a bush **154** by resilient connecting means having the form of a coil spring **156**. The sleeve **150**, bush **154** and coil spring **156** are integral and can be manufactured as a one-piece plastics moulding. It will be appreciated that the moulding will not be split as in the case of the first described embodiment and that the first housing is provided with moveable portions **158** in order to obtain a radially outward expansion thereof by rotation of the tightening element. A joint between two members can be formed, tightened and disassembled in the manner described in connection with the joint forming device of FIGS. **2** to **8**.

In FIGS. **11** and **12**, a sleeve **160** housing a tightening element **162** is connected with a bush **164** by an integral resilient connecting means. The connecting means comprises a ring element **166** connected with respective opposed pairs struts **168**, **170**. The struts **168** extending from the sleeve **160** are radially offset 90° with respect to the struts **170** which extend from the bush **164**. As with the FIG. **10** embodiment, the sleeve **160**, bush **164** and the resilient connecting means **166**, **168**, **170** are integral and can be manufactured as a one-piece plastics moulding. It will be appreciated that the moulding may be a split moulding if desired.

It is to be understood that the sleeve **22**, **150**, **160** may be used by itself in a manner analogous to that shown in FIG. **1** to house a tightening element for cooperably engaging with a fastening element which could be adapted for screwing to a joint member to which it is to be fitted. A sleeve **22**, **150**, **160** not connected or connectable with a bush **26**, **154**, **164** has the advantage over the known sleeve shown in FIG. **1** of being fittable to the joint member as a light press-fit not requiring any tool and that it can be removed from the joint member and re-used if required.

We claim:

1. A housing for a joint forming device for forming a joint between two members, the housing comprising a sleeve for housing a camming element of said joint forming device and having at least one moveable portion adapted to move outwardly of the outer periphery of the sleeve, in use, in response to movement of said camming element housed in the sleeve during tightening of said joint for forceably engaging a wall of a recess in the one of said members in which the sleeve is fitted, wherein said housing comprises formations cooperable with formations of said camming element for facilitating locking of the joint forming device, said formations of the housing comprising a plurality of substantially equi-spaced depressions disposed in a surface of said sleeve which surface defines a recess for housing said camming element.

2. A housing for a joint forming device for forming a joint between two members, the housing comprising a sleeve for housing a camming element of said joint forming device and having at least one moveable portion adapted to move outwardly of the outer periphery of the sleeve, in use, in response to rotational movement of said camming element housed in the sleeve during tightening of said joint for forceably engaging a wall of a recess in the one of said members in which the sleeve is fitted, said housing further comprising a bush for housing at least an expansion portion of an elongate fastening element of said joint forming device such that said fastening element is engageable with said camming element housed in said sleeve, said bush being integral with, or releasably engageable with, said sleeve.

3. A housing as claimed in claim **2**, wherein said bush is connected, or connectable, with said sleeve by resilient means.

4. A housing for a joint forming device for forming a joint between two members, the housing comprising:

a sleeve for housing a camming element of said joint forming device and having at least one moveable portion adapted to move outwardly of the outer periphery of the sleeve, in use, in response to movement of said camming element housed in the sleeve during tightening of said joint for forceably engaging a wall of a recess in the one of said joint members in which the sleeve is fitted; and

a bush for housing at least an expansion portion of an elongate fastening element of said joint forming device such that said fastening element is engageable with said camming element housed in said sleeve, said bush being connected with said sleeve by resilient means comprising a plurality of flexible membranes.

5. A housing for a joint forming device for forming a joint between two members, the housing comprising:

a sleeve for housing a camming element of said joint forming device and having at least one moveable portion adapted to move outwardly of the outer periphery of the sleeve, in use, in response to movement of said camming element housed in the sleeve during tightening of said joint for forceably engaging a wall of a recess in the one of said joint members in which the sleeve is fitted; and

a bush for housing at least an expansion portion of an elongate fastening element of said joint forming device such that said fastening element is engageable with said camming element housed in said sleeve, said bush having flexible membrane means extending from an end region thereof and said sleeve defining a recess for receiving said flexible membrane means whereby said bush is releasably engageable with said sleeve.

6. A housing for a joint forming device for forming a joint between two members, the housing comprising:

a sleeve for housing a camming element of said joint forming device and having at least one moveable portion adapted to move outwardly of the outer periphery of the sleeve, in use, in response to movement of said camming element housed in the sleeve during tightening of said joint for forceably engaging a wall of a recess in the one of said joint members in which the sleeve is fitted; and

a bush for housing at least an expansion portion of an elongate fastening element of said joint forming device such that said fastening element is engageable with said camming element housed in said sleeve, said bush being integral with said sleeve and connected to said

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sleeve by resilient means, said sleeve and bush comprising a first body part and a second body part, said body parts being snap-fittable together.

7. A device for use in forming a joint between two members, the device comprising a housing to be fitted in a recess in one of said members, a tightening element to be housed by said housing and an elongate fastening element having a longitudinal axis to be fitted to the other of said members, said tightening element having at least one camming surface cooperably engageable with a respective engaging surface of said fastening element whereby movement of said tightening element causes axial movement of said fastening element to cause said joint formed between said two members with said device to tighten, said housing comprising a sleeve for housing said tightening element, said housing having at least one moveable portion adapted to move outwardly of the outer periphery of the sleeve, in use, in response to tightening of said joint by said movement of the tightening element housed therein for forceably engaging with a wall of said recess in which the sleeve is fitted.

8. A device as claimed in claim 7, wherein said at least one moveable portion is resiliently deflectable in response to said movement of the tightening element.

9. A device as claimed in claim 7, wherein said at least one moveable portion is an integral part of said sleeve and is defined by one or more slots provided in said sleeve.

10. A device as claimed in claim 7, wherein said at least one moveable portion is defined by a respective generally L-shaped slot.

11. A device as claimed in claim 7, wherein said housing comprises one said moveable portion, said moveable portion comprising cam means cooperable with said tightening element housed in said sleeve for at least in part causing said outward movement of said moveable portion.

12. A device as claimed in claim 7, wherein said housing is provided with formations cooperably engageable with formations of the tightening element for facilitating locking of the joint forming device.

13. A device as claimed in claim 12, wherein said formations of the housing comprise circumferentially spaced depressions disposed in a surface of said sleeve which defines a recess for housing the tightening element and said formations of the tightening element comprise a plurality of protrusions on an external surface of the tightening element.

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14. A device as claimed in claim 7, wherein said tightening element comprises cam means for actuating said at least one moveable portion.

15. A device as claimed in claim 7, wherein said housing further comprises a bush for housing at least an expansion portion of said elongate fastening element such that said at least one camming surface is engageable with the respective engaging surface of the fastening element by said movement of the tightening element, said bush being integral with, or releasably engageable with, said sleeve.

16. A device as claimed in claim 15, wherein said bush is connected, or connectable, with said sleeve by resilient means.

17. A device as claimed in claim 16, wherein said resilient means comprises a plurality of flexible membranes.

18. A device as claimed in claim 16, wherein said bush is releasably engageable with said sleeve, said bush having flexible membrane means extending from an end region thereof and said sleeve defining a recess for receiving said flexible membrane means.

19. A device as claimed in claim 15, wherein said bush is integral with said sleeve, said sleeve and bush comprising a first body part and a second body part, said body parts being snap-fittable together.

20. A device as claimed in claim 7, wherein said tightening element is rotatably housed by said sleeve and rotation of said tightening element about an axis of rotation thereof causes said axial movement of said fastening element and wherein axial movement of said fastening element towards said axis of rotation causes said joint to tighten.

21. A device as claimed in claim 7, wherein said housing comprises a plurality of said moveable portions, wherein at least one said moveable portion comprises cam means, said cam means being cooperable with said tightening element housed in said sleeve for at least in part causing outward movement of said moveable portion.

22. A joint forming device as claimed in claim 7, wherein said sleeve comprises a depth stop for limiting insertion of said sleeve into said recess in the one of said members in which the sleeve is fitted, said depth stop comprising a generally planar cap disposed at one end region of the sleeve.

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